

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AGRE-00 CU-06 USIE-00 AID-05
CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 FRB-01 INR-10 NSAE-00
TRSE-00 XMB-04 OPIC-06 SP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01
STR-07 L-03 SS-15 NSCE-00 INRE-00 SSO-00 H-02
PA-02 /088 W

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FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6550

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E.O. 11652 : NA

SUBJECT: BILATERAL ECONOMIC TALKS

REF: A) LAGOS 1552, B) STATE 28590

1. FMG RESPONSE TO AGENDA HAS SO FAR BEEN AFFIRMATIVE. AFTER AFFIXING ITS STAMP OF APPROVAL, MEA SENT AGENDA TO CABINET OFFICE WHICH WILL HAVE OFFICIAL COORDINATING ROLE. REPORTS FROM CABINET REVEAL THAT AGENDA HAS BEEN REVIEWED THROUGH HIERARCHY INCLUDING CHIEF CIVIL SERVANT CIROMA, SECRETARY TO THE SMC, AND OFFICIALS RATED IT AS COMPREHENSIVE AND ON-TARGET.

2. IT APPEARS THAT CABINET PERMANENT SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC AFFAIRS FALAE WILL DIRECT PREPARATIONS AND MAY HEAD DELEGATION. APPROXIMATELY 10 OFFICERS, MOST WITH THE RANK OF PRINCIPAL SECRETARY AND HIGHER, WILL MAKE UP THE THREE WORKING GROUPS. BECAUSE OF NEED FOR TOP PEOPLE TO BE IN LAGOS FOR THE FINAL WEEKS OF BUDGET PREPARATION, THE GROUP CURRENTLY IS POINTING TO FEBRUARY 27 TO START DISCUSSIONS. THEY WISH TO CONCENTRATE ALL TALKS AND ACTIVITIES IN A SPAN OF ONE WEEK. PAN AMERICAN AIRWAYS HAS ALREADY BLOCKED OUT SEATS ON ITS FLIGHT WHICH WILL LEAVE LAGOS THE NIGHT OF FEBRUARY 25 AND ARRIVE IN NEW YORK
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ON FEBRUARY 26.

3. EMBASSY WISHES TO EMPHASIZE THAT ABOVE PROJECTIONS ARE TENTATIVE. WE HAVE NOT YET RECEIVED ANYTHING FIRM IN WRITING. PROPOSED DATES COULD FALL BACK A WEEK OR TEN DAYS. HOWEVER, KNOWING THE SHORT AMOUNT OF TIME REMAINING BETWEEN NOW AND GROUP'S SUGGESTED ARRIVAL, WE THINK IT ESSENTIAL TO TRANSMIT

THIS PROGRESS REPORT. WE RECOMMEND ITINERARY IN WHICH GROUP WOULD COME DIRECTLY TROUGH NEW YORK TO WASHINGTON ARRIVING AROUND NOON ON SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26. INITIAL HOINT SESSION FOR MEMBERS OF ALL THREE GROUPS WOULD BE HELD AT STATE DEPARTMENT EARLY ON FEBRUARY 27 AFTER WHICH TIME THE THREE TEAMS WOULD SPLIT UP, EACH TO GO ITS OWN WAY. AFTER APPROPRIATE MEETINGS IN WASHINGTON ARE CONCLUDED, TEAMS WOULD TRAVEL ABOUT COUNTRY BEFORE RETURNING TO NIGERIA PRESUMABLY FROM NEW YORK CITY ON THE WEEKEND OF MARCH 4-5. WE NEED DEPARTMENT RESPONSE ASAP ON WHETHER PROPOSED TIMING IS FEASIBLE.

4. REF (A) IS FAIRLY SPECIFIC IN ITS RECOMMENDATIONS FOR TRADE, INVESTMENT, AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER GROUP SESSIONS. GROUP EXPECTS TO

END SIGNIFICANT AMOUNT OF TIME IN NEW YORK CITY IN LATTER PART OF WEEK. WITH REGARD TO ITS MEETINGS WITH TRADE AND FINANCIAL DECISION-MAKERS, WE WISH TO POINT OUT NEED FOR INCLUSION OF EXECUTIVES FROM OIL COMPANIES. PORT OF NEW YORK AUTHORITY QUESTIONS SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO JAMES O'BRIEN, OR CLIFFORD O'HARA (202-466-8308).

5. RE FORMULATION OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEDULE, WE SUGGEST THAT DEPARTMENT CONFER WITH DR. QUENTIN WEST, DIRECTOR OF INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT STAFF ATTACHED UNCLASSIFIED

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TO THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE. HIS BACKGROUND

IN WORKING WITH DEVELOPING COUNTRIES SHOULD BE MOST HELPFUL IN SHAPING

ITINERARY FOR GROUP. DR. CHARLES BEER, DIRECTOR OF EXTENSION SERVICES FOR MIDDLE AND SMALL FARMS, WOULD ALSO BE EXCELLENT CONTACT FOR GROUP. GIVEN FMG INTEREST IN LARGE-SCALE COMMERCIAL FARMING, DEPARTMENT MIGHT WISH TO CONTACT BECHTEL, FMC, AND DOANE, WHICH CAN PROVIDE TECHNOLOGY AND PERSONNEL FOR LARGE-SCALE FARMING OPERATIONS. AGRI BUSINESS COUNCIL MET WITH AG COMMISSIONER MAFENI DURING OBASANJO VISIT AND MAY MERIT INCLUSION. USDA BELTSVILLE AND UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT IN COLLEGE PARK REPRESENT CONVENIENT FACILITIES. EMBASSY AGATT ALSO SUGGESTS PURDUE AND MICHIGAN STATE AS SCHOOLS WITH PROGRAMS PERTINENT TO NIGERIA.

6. WE WOULD ALSO LIKE TO SUGGEST THAT WINTON FUGLIE, AID, BE ASSIGNED TO AGRICULTURAL WORKING GROUP DURING ITS STAY IN U.S. FUGLIE'S EXPERIENCE IN NIGERIA AND HIS PARTICIPATION IN THE NOVEMBER 1977 TALKS IN LAGOS MAKES HIM IDEAL PERSON FOR THE JOB. HOWEVER, WE SEE IN CABLE TRAFFIC THAT FUGLIE MAY BE

VISITING WEST AFRICA DURING FEBRUARY AND MARCH. WE WOULD APPRECIATE CONSIDERATION OF POSSIBILITY MAKING FUGLIE AVAILABLE FOR PERIOD WHEN WORKING GROUP IN U.S.

7. REGARDING AGENDA OF EDUCATION WORKING GROUP, WE SUGGEST THAT OPTIMAL SCHEDULE MIGHT BE MAPPED OUT THROUGH DISCUSSION WITH JAMES RALPH (CU/AF), MARY ANN SPRECKELMEYER (CU/YSS), DENNIS SHAW (USIA/IAA), HUGH JENDKINS (NAFSA), AND CHARLES LYONS (OVERSEAS LIAISON COMMITTEE OF ACE). DEPARTMENT MIGHT ALSO CONFER WITH GENE CLUBINE, IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY, AMES, IOWA, FOR CURRENT EVALUATION OF NIGERIAN EDUCATIONAL SCNE. CLUBINE HAS JUST CONDUCTED SURVEY HERE AND IS SLATED TO ARRIVE IN WASHINGTON ON FEBRUARY 22 FOR TALKS WITH USG.

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8. WE WILL TRANSMIT FURTHER INFORMATION AS SOON AS IT BECOMES AVAILABLE. SEPTTEL SUBMITS OUR RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PARTICIPATION IN TALKS BY EMBASSY/USIS STAFF MEMBERS.
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